

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Products in Your Home

Nearly everyone uses hazardous chemical products. Your cleaning cabinet, garage, or shed probably contains products such as spot removers, furniture polish, used motor oil, engine degreasers, paint strippers, weed killers, or flea powder. The very characteristics that make these products useful also make them dangerous or hazardous. Storing and disposing of household hazardous materials properly can reduce the risk to your family and community.

How Hazardous Products Become Hazardous Waste

Sooner or later that old container of pesticide or rusted can of engine cleaner must be discarded. Once you have no further use for a hazardous product it becomes hazardous waste. The drain and the garbage can are how most households get rid of things they no longer need, but these disposal methods are not safe for most types of hazardous waste. Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can injure refuse haulers and waste handlers. It also has the potential to contaminate ground and surface water, soil, and air.



A Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste is any discarded household material that may pose a significant threat or potential hazard to human health or the environment when handled improperly. This type of waste is different from other types of household waste because they have one or more of the following characteristics:

- ★ **Corrosive** - These are wastes that can eat away materials or living tissue by chemical action. Examples include vehicle battery acid and oven cleaner.
- ★ **Toxic** - These are wastes that, when improperly managed, pose a hazard to human health or the environment. Examples include some pesticides, some cleaning products, and heavy metals such as mercury, silver, lead, aluminum, and nickel.

- ★ **Ignitable** - These are wastes that present a fire hazard because they ignite by spark at temperatures below 140 degrees F. Examples include gasoline and paint thinners.
- ★ **Reactive** - These are wastes that can react with air, heat, water, or other substances to cause rapid heating or explosions. One example is a cracked lithium battery.

How You Can Minimize the Human and Environment Risk of Household Hazardous Waste

- ★ If you don't need it, don't buy it.
- ★ Buy the right product for your task.
- ★ Buy only the amount you need.
- ★ Read the label; try to identify and buy the least toxic product.
- ★ Use products according to label directions; more is not necessarily better.
- ★ Use products completely if it is safe to do so.
- ★ If you store potentially hazardous products, keep them in the original containers and out of the reach of children and pets.
- ★ Recycle items such as used oil or batteries.

How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste



Lancaster County citizens have many options for safely disposing of or recycling household hazardous waste.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) suggests you follow the disposal

and recycling methods listed on the charts on the following pages.

Check us out on the web:

www.lincoln.ne.gov

Keyword: Household

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CHARTS

The following charts will help you determine the proper methods for recycling or disposing of household hazardous wastes found around your home.

Before disposing of these wastes, you should consider using up the products, recycling them, or giving them to someone else to use.

Key

- Can be thrown into the trash, which then goes to a sanitary landfill.
- Can be poured down the sink drain with plenty of water.
- ✖ Should **never** be poured into a *septic* tank.
- ↔ Should be taken to a recycling facility. If you need more information, call the LLCHD at 441-8040.
- ❖ Should be stored in a safe manner until a community Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHWC). Contact the LLCHD at 441-8040 for more information.

Kitchen

Aerosol cans (<i>empty</i>)	■	Do not put into fire.
Aluminum cleaners	○ ✖	Rinse container before discarding.
Ammonia-based cleaners	○	Never mix with chlorine bleach; a poisonous gas is produced.
Bug sprays	❖	Products that have been banned or labeled restricted use should not be used.
Drain cleaners	○ ✖	
Floor and furniture polish	❖	
Metal polish	❖	
Oven cleaners (<i>lye base</i>)	○ ✖	
Rug and upholstery cleaners	○	
Window cleaner	○	

Bathroom

Alcohol-based lotions (<i>after-shave, perfumes, etc.</i>)	❖	
Bathroom cleaners	○	
Depilatories/hair removers	○	Rinse container before discarding.
Disinfectants	○ ✖	
Medicine (<i>expired</i>)	✖	Contact LLCHD for proper disposal options.
Nail polish (<i>solidified</i>)	■	Leave open when discarding.
Nail polish remover	❖	
Toilet bowl cleaner	❖	
Tub and tile cleaners	❖	

Garage

Antifreeze	↔	Contact LLCHD for recycling options.
Automotive transmission fluid	↔	
Auto body filler (<i>solidified</i>)	■	Wrap in absorbent material.
Car battery	↔	Contact LLCHD for recycling options.
Car wax with solvent	❖	
Carburetor cleaner	❖	
Diesel fuel	❖	
Engine degreaser	❖	
Fuel oil	❖	
Gasoline (<i>old or with oil</i>)	❖	
Kerosene	❖	
Motor Oil (used)	↔	Contact LLCHD for recycling options.
Other garage oils (<i>excluding cutting and PCB oils</i>)	↔	
Windshield washer solution	○	

Disclaimer: Disposal guidelines listed in this pamphlet represent the safest methods presently known to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. As such, these guidelines carry no guarantee of relief from liability.

Lawn and Garden Products

Fertilizer Use on lawn.

If material is hard, dissolve in water.

Pesticide (*Fungicide, Herbicide, Insecticide, rodent poison*) ❖

Banned or restricted use pesticides should not be used: DDT; Aldrin; Chlordane; Creosote; Dieldrin; Kepone; Lindane; Mirex; Diazinon; Pentachlorophenol; Silvex; 2,4,5-T; Dursban (Lorsban); and Toxaphene.

Workshop

Cutting oil ❖

Use or give away. *Don't mix with other waste oils.*

Glue (*solvent-based solidified*) ■

Paint, oil-based ❖

Paint, latex (*solidified*) ■

Leave small quantities open to dry; mix larger quantities with cat litter, sawdust or concrete mix, then place in trash with lids removed.

Paint-synthetic auto enamel/
model airplane (*solidified*) ❖

Paint thinner/stripper (*used*) ❖

Place in container and let pigment settle out of thinner. Pour off thinner and reuse. Dry pigment and throw in trash.

Primer (*solidified*) ■

Turpentine (*used*) ❖

Place in container and let pigment settle. Pour off turpentine and reuse. Bring pigment to collection.

Varnish (*solidified*) ■

Wood preservative ❖

Do not use wood preservatives containing creosote, pentachlorophenol, or arsenic.
Wood treated with these products should be landfilled not burned.

Miscellaneous Products

Ammunition, explosives, fireworks

Contact Lincoln Bureau of Fire Prevention for assistance (441-7791).

Batteries (*button, except zinc-air*) ↔

Contact LLCHD for recycling facilities.

Batteries (*rechargeable, mercury and lithium*) ↔

Contact LLCHD for recycling facilities.

Batteries (*dry cell, alkaline, zinc-air*) ■

Dry cleaning solvents ❖

Ether or organic peroxides

Can be explosive if stored more than one year. Contact the Lincoln Bureau of Fire Prevention

Fluorescent light bulbs ❖

Glue (*water-based*) ○

Pour on cardboard, let dry then dispose in trash

Gun cleaning solvents ❖

Lighter fluid ❖

Moth balls ❖

Muratic or hydrochloric acid ❖

PCB ballasts, capacitor, oil ❖

Photographic chemicals (*unmixed*) ❖

Rust remover (with phosphoric acid) ❖

Shoe polish ■

Swimming pool chemicals ❖

(*unmixed*) Shock Treatments

Household Hazardous Waste

Helpful Hints -

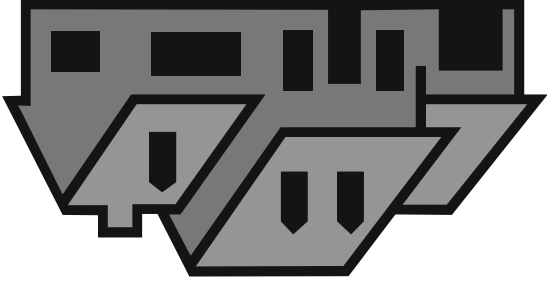
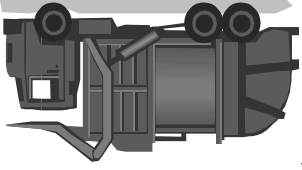
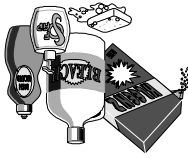
- ★ Movers do not haul most hazardous chemicals, so plan ahead.
- ★ Remove your household hazardous wastes before your children inherit them.
- ★ Buy only what you need and use up the product.
- ★ Use nontoxic alternatives whenever possible.
- ★ Read labels carefully. Read directions for use and follow the recommended precautions for disposal.
- ★ Never bury wastes in your yard, dump waste along side of the road, or pour waste into a street or storm drain.

Environmental Public Health Division

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GUIDE TO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & RECYCLING DISPOSAL



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department
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